

In Loving Memory of



Van T. Johnson

April 11, 1959 - March 17, 2019

Service

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

Messiah Baptist Church

13-17 Oak Street, East Orange, New Jersey

Obituary

Van Talbert Johnson (Van J., Sputnik, Sput, Spud) was born on April 11, 1958 to Joyce A Johnson and the late Louis W. Johnson Sr. in East Orange General Hospital of East Orange, New Jersey. Suddenly, on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, our Beloved Sput was called home.

Van attended the East Orange School System. He had a big personality and cheerful spirit all of his life. During his early years, he was the mascot for the East Orange High School Basketball Team, Sput also was a member of EOLLS during which time the team traveled to play in Puerto Rico, That trip provided a lifetime of memories. Van joined the United States Navy at age 17 where he mastered the cooking skills that he learned from his grandmother (Granny). He ultimately became a chef.

Sput did the best he could in each chapter of his life and instill in them the importance of loving and supporting each other because at the end of the day, they were all they had. Sput introduced them to New York City and the art of exploration. He had a different and unique relationship with them individually and treasured each moment he spent or spoke with them.

Van was a man of many talents and he loved being able to guide folks to the person that could provide assistance no matter the issue. And, Sput knew everybody! If he could help, he was glad to. His passion was always cooking and talking to people. He especially liked cooking in facilities that catered to children or Senior Citizens where he made all feel like part of a family, He enjoyed working as a chef until the end.

Van relocated to Durham, North Carolina about nine years ago for a fresh start in a tranquil environment. He absolutely loved the slower pace and the beauty of the South where neighbors in his complex treated him like family. Sput loved traveling back home to East Orange for the holidays and special occasions to spend time with family and catch up with his childhood "brothers and sisters". He tried not to miss the Annual Fishing Trip no matter what. He introduced some of his children and a nephew to fishing during some of those trips, Recently, he was able to reconnect with his eldest son and his family which made Van so very happy and grateful. He was truly looking forward to attending his granddaughter's upcoming graduation. Van so deeply loved all of his children and was so proud of them all. While he had special, but different and unique bonds with each of them, they each brought him so much joy! He especially enjoyed the last 4 years of being Pop-Pop.

Sput was an organizer and promoter with the gift of gab. He could talk his way into or out of almost anything. He really enjoyed being involved with the East Orange Class Reunion especially this year for the Atlanta Trip. He LOVED music, but only "old school classic movies and books.

Van leaves a hole that will never be filled. He leaves to mourn: his mother, Joyce; his children, Van Jr., (Renita) Dameon, Taurean (Yazmin) and Kalita; grandchildren, Dream, Imagine, Sundjata, Brooklyn, Mason and Jaxson; great grandchild, Inari; siblings Wendy, Penny, Van was predeceased by his brother, Louis/Hardy; nephews, Russell, Kenyia and Jared; his many cousins, with a special shout out to Carol, King John and Eric; and friends. A special thank you to Rodney Daryl Jones, Mark Copeland, all of "The Fellas" , his entire Panther family and Kenny Mac.

Order of Service

Processional Clergy and Family

Opening Hymn Soloist

Scripture Readings Rodney Daryl Jones
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection DeVerne D. Williams

Words of Comfort Family and Friends

Obituary Mark Copeland

Acknowledgements Clarence Turner

Musical Selection DeVerne D. Williams

Eulogy Rev. Dana P. Owens, Pastor

Recessional Clergy and Family

INTERMENT

Rosedale Cemetery
Orange, New Jersey

Repast

*Following the burial, family and friends are invited
to the repast at the Church Fellowship Hall.*



Pallbearers

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| Clyde Bradshaw | Mark Copeland |
| Derrick Howe | Rodney Daryl Jones |
| Kevin Parish | Larry Sweetie |
| Clarence Turner | |

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in their hour of bereavement. May God bless and keep you in His care.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
 130 Main Street
 Orange, NJ
 973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
 Newark, NJ
 973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
 37 Clinton Avenue
 Jersey City, NJ
 201-433-1000

